For Immediate Release:
Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9193

Jan 10, 2007

EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: John J. Gdyra

19 CHARGED IN $76 MILLION FRAUD CONCERNING SBA LOANS

A 49-year-old Roseville man who took over $360,000 from bank accounts belonging to his elderly and deceased clients was sentenced to 41 months imprisonment today, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced.

John J. Gdyra, a Comerica Bank personal banker and assistant branch manager, pled guilty to one felony count of embezzlement by a bank employee on September 7, 2006 before United States District Judge Sean F. Cox. Gdyra, who had been employed at Comerica Bank's Warren branch at 29100 Ryan Rd., admitted that he took a total of $360,859.04 deposited by six sets of clients. Gdyra stole the money by closing or depleting CD and IRA accounts belonging to the victims, without their knowledge, and then depositing the funds into his personal account. Gdyra attempted to conceal his fraud by forging withdrawal slips and destroying bank surveillance tapes.

Each of Gdyra's victims was elderly: at the inception of the fraud in 2003, the youngest victim was 73 years old; the oldest victim was 92 years old. Gdyra also apparently targeted couples where one spouse had recently passed away.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Certainly what we see here – the embezzlement of the savings of aged and recently bereaved senior citizens by their personal banker from their CDs and IRAs – is among the more serious examples of a breach of trust. Today's 41-month prison sentence represents an appropriate punishment for such a crime."

Gdyra was also ordered to pay full restitution and a $7,500 fine, as well as to serve four years of supervised release after leaving custody.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Leonid Feller.